THE
DISSEMINATOR
Nova Scotia Provincial Library
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To Chief Librarians:
This electronic information sheet is being distributed to all Regional Librarians and members of the Automation Working Group.

Please distribute this to staff and boards. Thanks.

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T H E D I S S E M I N A T O R 1.8
April 11, 1994

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NATIONAL NEWS

Marion Pape will be in Ottawa from April 12-14 to serve on the National Library's Adaptive Technology for Print Handicapped Committee. While there, she also plans to attend the 2nd public meeting of the Coalition of Public Information and to connect with colleagues from Industry Canada who are working on various information policy topics.

Elizabeth Armstrong will be filling in for Marion while she is away from the office.

AND THE WINNER IS ...

Hot off the presses! Charlotte Janes of the Annapolis Valley Region has been awarded the APLA First Timers Grant. The Grant is intended to assist the lucky winner in financing attendance at the APLA Conference which will take place in Baddeck, Nova Scotia this year. It's not the 6/49 jackpot but it's still good news! Congratulations to Charlotte.

COUNCIL ON YOUTH SERVICES IS BORN!

After much hard work and organization, the Council on Youth Services held its inaugural meeting on Thursday March 24 at NSPL with a representative from each regional library. Issues discussed included ways of maintaining connections with the NSLA Children's and Young Adults Interest Group, improvements to the Summer Reading Programme, and projects for the coming year, such as publicity and possible fundraising.

We heard that Carl Haycock of the Brier Island Whale Institute has agreed to donate tickets for whale-watching as a province-wide grand prize. Participants said that the meeting was a great opportunity to share ideas and success stories, and plan our future successes! Council members also expressed their compliments on the artwork for this year's Summer Reading Programme.

INFORMATION RIGHTS WEEK ACTIVITIES

Activities around the province are being planned to celebrate Information Rights Week, April 11-17, 1994 which was proclaimed by the Premier. A frameable proclamation will be sent to each Chief Librarian. To date, several libraries are planning programs, such as Dartmouth Regional Library's session entitled "Your right to know: how to access information under the Freedom of Information Act". It is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13 at noon and the speakers will be Peter Spurway, N.S. Dept of Justice; Dean Jobb, author and journalist; and John Ashley, Federal Dept. of Justice. The event is being held in recognition of Law Day (April 14) as well as Information Rights Week. As well, the Colchester-East Hants Friends of the Library are organizing and staffing a booth in one of the shopping malls in Truro for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They will be handing out CLA's brochure on Information Rights and the draft Information Access Principles. Local press is expected to cover this event. A session on freenets is being sponsored by the Halifax City Regional Library, the Metro Community Access Network Society, the Nova Scotia Library Association and the Halifax Library Association. The session, entitled Getting Wired: Community Freenets and Access to Information, will be held at the Halifax Main Branch at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12. The National Capital Freenet's Vice President, Andrew Patrick, will be speaking about how Ottawa's freenet has developed, as well as considering how freenets can be the solution to information access problems. David Trueman, Co-Chair of the Metro Community Access Network Society, will then give a demonstration of the prototype Chebucto Freenet. It's free, and it looks like it will be a great night for a drive into metro (according to the long, long range forecasts), so come on down!

LIBRARY TECHNICIAN TRAINING OFFERED

Beginning April 25, the Library Technician Training Program offered at Kingstec Community College will be available on a part-time basis through Distance Education, using Network Nova Scotia's teleconferencing system available at all Nova Scotia community college campuses. This arrangement will enable library workers to pursue a Library Technician Diploma without leaving his/her employment. The entrance requirement is Grade 12 or equivalent. All courses are 60 hours in length and tuition is $200 per course. The two courses beginning near the end of April are: Information Services, and Children's Literature and Services. For more information contact Sharon Murray, Vice-Principal, Kingstec, tel 678-7341.

AUTOMATION UPDATE

The Automation Working Group met at Provincial Library on March 25th, for a day of discussion and training. The group learned how to create and modify item records and received a demonstration of the proposed ILL system using Eudora and WordPerfect in the afternoon. The Recon Plan was outlined, and dates were proposed for completion of the remaining steps.

OVERVIEW OF THE AUTOMATION SCHEDULE

April 6	Gap tape, including all records since last tape, arrived at NSPL. Will be loaded in early April.
End of April to mid-May	Tape loading for HFX and DRL. Dartmouth has now completed cutting their tape, and are sending it to Montreal to multiLIS.
Fall 1994	Installation of multiLIS version 10.9 which allows for alteration of authority records. In the meantime, we recommend using "see" references in interfiles and shelf lists, to find items where main entry or cutter has been changed.
Other items:	The acquisitions module will be loaded with version 11.0 which is due out a month after 10.9. Remaining tasks are: automatic updates for HFX and DRL (details need to be finalized between NSTN, multiLIS, NSPL and the two libraries); fiche production (to be completed in June).

INTERNET Q & A

Question:

Is there a way to access ERIC through the Internet?
E. Stackhouse, ECRL

Answer:

Yes, ERIC can be accessed through the Internet though what you are actually accessing is the CD-ROM version which is loaded at the host's site. One way to access it is to use the gopher to get to the University of Saskatchewan's gopher. Select (in this order) "Other gophers in the world", "North America", "Canada" and "University of Saskatchewan". Once in the USASK gopher you can choose Library, Catalogs, GEAC Online Catalog & Infoaccess Databases, in that order. You will then be

shot by the Internet's transporter (telnet) to the host site. You will be prompted for a username (or some such thing) - use SONIA.

You can skip all this gopher stuff by telnetting directly (via Wnqvtnet) to the address: sklib.usask.ca , you will be prompted for a username - use SONIA. This method has one strong advantage - you can use a logfile to keep the results of your search. Unfortunately, a logfile cannot be kept using the gopher route.

If all this sounds confusing, IT IS! If anyone has any questions about this please give me a shout by phone or e-mail and I will be glad to assist you.

I have it from Fred Popowich that HortInfo is also available at USASK. This provides information on gardening and horticulture. I haven't tried it yet but am anxious to give it a go.
S. Dirani, NSPL

WHAT POWER SWITCH??

An amusing article from The Wall Street Journal appeared on our desks recently and we thought that you might also find it entertaining. The article is about the kinds of calls that computer company help-lines often get. Here is brief excerpt:

Personal-computer makers are discovering that it's still a low-tech world out there. While they are finally having great success selling PCs to households, they now have to deal with people to whom monitors and disk drives are as foreign as another language.

Compaq's help center in Houston, Texas, is inundated with some 8,000 consumer calls a day, with inquiries like this one related by technician John Wolf: "A frustrated customer called, who said her brand new Contura would not work. She said she had unpacked the unit, plugged it in, opened it up and sat there for 20 minutes waiting for something to happen. When asked what happened when she pressed the power switch, she asked, 'What power switch?' "

The software inside the computer can be equally befuddling. A Dell customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of troubleshooting, the technician discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the "send" key.

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That's it for this issue. Stay tuned . . . .

If you have any questions or comments about the activities mentioned, please contact the people involved.

We encourage readers to comment on items found in THE DISSEMINATOR and/or make suggestions about content. These comments should be directed to Sue Dirani or Donna Bourne-Tyson.

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